Vincent Goodwin/Godwyn[1] **(1385-11/26/1433)**[2] is the earliest Goodwin which I believe may be an ancestor depending upon the possible bloodline relationship between the Goodwins and the Godwyns; however, there is a substantial degree of speculation on the Goodwin lineage prior to 1621.

Vincent was the earliest Goodwin living in Blofield[3] and was probably the ancestor of all the later ones living there. Vincent was married to **Asilia Cheshire De Houghton (1387-1433)** [4]**.**

Some notes on Vincent-

1. Vincent's parents are unknown. Although numerous genealogy sites and personal family research boards thereon show Vincent Goodwin being a child of "Thomas de La Roche". This is based upon common and incorrect interpretation of scant available documentation, or, simple reference to other families' beliefs on Vincent's parentage.

Hard documentation (such as those references/sources contained in the footnote to this paragraph) do not list, or reference, a Vincent Goodwin as a child of Thomas de La Roche even though they do list his two daughters. These two daughters, in turn, were documented as co-inheritors of Thomas de La Roche estate, and thus provide credible evidence that Vincent was not a son of Thomas de La Roche, as first born sons almost always inherited during this time. As such, Thomas de La Roche and Elizabeth Birmingham are not shown in this document as parents of Vincent Goodwin.[5]

2. In addition to the above oft cited error, many family trees and researchers, give Vincent's name as Vincent Surflete Goodwin. This is also a common, repeated error. English *Will Indices* put together in the 19th century named each Will Index/Register by the first Will in the register.

[1] In researching the Goodwins one has to be careful to not confuse this Vincent Goodwin with one by the same name who was the Rector of St. Peter and St. Paul in Great Yarmouth Borough, Norfolk, England who died in 1571.

[2] Firm birth dates in the 1300-1400s are almost impossible to find. Those that I have documentation for I have footnoted with the references. Those not footnoted are not documented birth dates but based on extrapolations from known dates such marriage dates or based on childrens' known or suspected births and death dates. Death dates oft times have better documentation via gravestones, and if so are footnoted.

[3] Blofield is often spelt Blofeld in earlier texts and references. Mentioned in the Domesday Book as Blafelda and Blauuefelde. The oldest building in the village is the Parish Church of St. Andrew and St. Peter built sometime between 1420 and1444. It is five miles (8 km) east of Norwich and 14 miles (23 km) west of Great Yarmouth.

[4] Note in the early ages, last names were uncommon with the higher classes carrying a moniker from where they were born (e.g., de Houghton, meaning "of Houghton"). Last names came about as taxes became more generally levied on all classes and the need to differentiate people became necessary.

[5] http://our-royal-titled-noble-and-commoner-ancestors.com/p367.htm#i11022
http://trees.ancestry.ca/tree/47321355/person/6832456804
http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=jweber&id=I24825

"Surflete" is the name of the Will Register in which Vincent Goodwyn/Goodwin's will is registered. "Surflete" has nothing to do with Vincent's name.

3. There is confusion on the children of Vincent as well. Researching this, one discovers in the Will of Vincent Goodwyn of Blofield (dated December 6, 1433 and proved 26 November 1433), he stipulated his desire to be buried in the churchyard of St. Andrew, Blofield, and addresses only a son William, and a wife Asilie (Asilia).[6] See Figure 1.

Vincent Goodwyn of Blofeld. Will 6 December 1433; proved 26 November 1433. To be buried in churchyard of St. Andrew, Blofield. To son William. To wife Asilie (Asilia?).
Consistory of Norwich, Surflete 129.

Figure 1- Will of Vincent Goodwyn

While not mentioned in Vincent's Will, as previously mentioned, some believe Vincent also had a second, possibly younger, son named John (~1415-1465)[7]. I believe this is correct.

To arrive at this conclusion, one has to examine the Wills of Vincent, William, and John Goodwyn. These Wills are available at:
https://archive.org/stream/englishgoodwinfa01star#page/656/mode/1up

1. The Will of Vincent Goodwyn (1385-1433) of Blofeld (proved 26 November 1433) is contained on page 656 of the above document.
2. On the following page 657 is a Will (dated 22 September 1465 and proved 13 November 1465) for John *Goodwin* (~1415-1465) of Blofield.
3. On the following page 658 is the Will of William Goodwyn (~1420-1478) of Blofield, which was proved 6 August 1478.

While Vincent's Will does not mention a second son, this does not definitively mean Vincent had no son named John.

John Goodwyn (Abt. 1415-1465) followed Vincent, in death and died prior to William Goodwyn.

John's Will:

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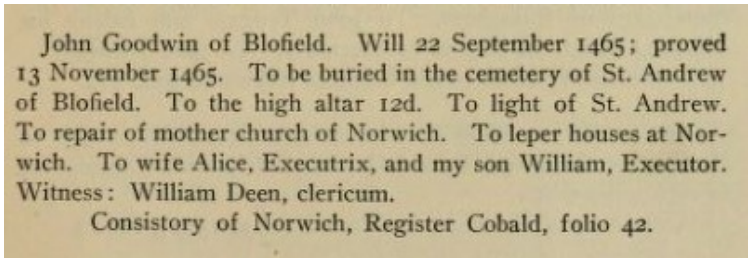
[6] *Consistory of Norwich, Surflete 129*. (*Archdeaconry of Norwich, Book 1621-23, folio 125*) (*English Godwin Family Papers P.656*) summary provided in Figure 1.

[7] Whether John was older or younger than William is debatable as both men's births are approximate with no definitive birth year documentation.

1. Stipulates he was to be buried in the cemetery of St. Andrew in Blofield, the same cemetery as Vincent.
2. The Will also documents John's wife as "Alice", and names her as executrix and his son William as Executor. Was John's son named after his brother William? Perhaps.

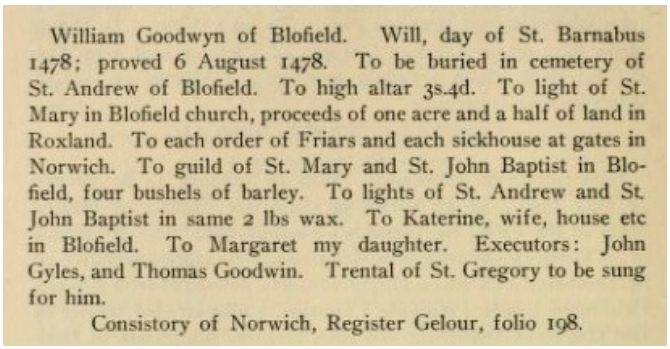


John Goodwin of Blofield. Will 22 September 1465; proved 13 November 1465. To be buried in the cemetery of St. Andrew of Blofield. To the high altar 12d. To light of St. Andrew. To repair of mother church of Norwich. To leper houses at Norwich. To wife Alice, Executrix, and my son William, Executor. Witness: William Deen, clericum.

Consistory of Norwich, Register Cobald, folio 42.

William Goodwyn's (1420-1478) Will:

1. Was dated "…day of St. Barnabus" 1478, and proved 6 August 1478.
2. William, like Vincent and John, directed he was to be buried in the cemetery of St. Andrew in Blofield.
3. His Will also mentions his wife "Katerine" and a daughter Margaret, and lists as his executors John Gyles and a Thomas Goodwin. *These executors are significant*.



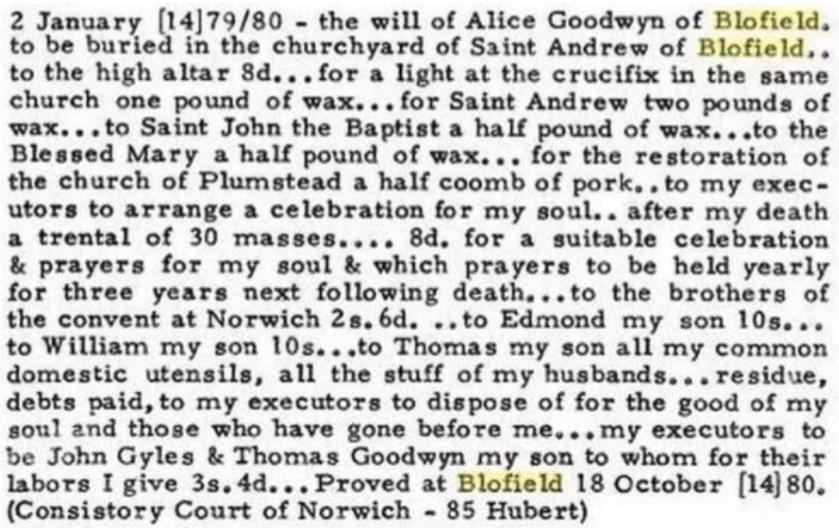
William Goodwyn of Blofield. Will, day of St. Barnabus 1478; proved 6 August 1478. To be buried in cemetery of St. Andrew of Blofield. To high altar 3s.4d. To light of St. Mary in Blofield church, proceeds of one acre and a half of land in Roxland. To each order of Friars and each sickhouse at gates in Norwich. To guild of St. Mary and St. John Baptist in Blofield, four bushels of barley. To lights of St. Andrew and St. John Baptist in same 2 lbs wax. To Katerine, wife, house etc in Blofield. To Margaret my daughter. Executors: John Gyles, and Thomas Goodwin. Trental of St. Gregory to be sung for him.

Consistory of Norwich, Register Gelour, folio 198.

Familial Clues:

1. John Goodwyn's wife was Alice Gyles (1416-1480).
2. John Gyles named as executor in William's Will appears to be a sibling of John's wife.
3. William had, according to his Will, no sons to inherit his estate or act as executor.
4. William's Executor, Thomas Goodwyn, *may* well be John Goodwyn's son (Thomas Goodwyn [1455-1502]).
5. John Goodwin's wife Alice Gyles' (1416-1480) died after Vincent, John, and William. Her Will also directs her burial at St. Andrew in Blofield where her husband, William, and Vincent Goodwyn were buried

6. Alice's Will lists John Gyles and her son Thomas as Executors…the same executors used by William two years prior.



2 January [14]79/80 - the will of Alice Goodwyn of Blofield. to be buried in the churchyard of Saint Andrew of Blofield.. to the high altar 8d...for a light at the crucifix in the same church one pound of wax...for Saint Andrew two pounds of wax...to Saint John the Baptist a half pound of wax...to the Blessed Mary a half pound of wax... for the restoration of the church of Plumstead a half coomb of pork..to my executors to arrange a celebration for my soul.. after my death a trental of 30 masses.... 8d. for a suitable celebration & prayers for my soul & which prayers to be held yearly for three years next following death...to the brothers of the convent at Norwich 2s.6d. ..to Edmond my son 10s... to William my son 10s...to Thomas my son all my common domestic utensils, all the stuff of my husbands...residue, debts paid, to my executors to dispose of for the good of my soul and those who have gone before me...my executors to be John Gyles & Thomas Goodwyn my son to whom for their labors I give 3s.4d...Proved at Blofield 18 October [14]80. (Consistory Court of Norwich - 85 Hubert)

Figure 2

Does all this definitely mean William Goodwyn (1420-1478) and John Goodwyn (1415-1465) are both Vincent's sons? No. But it does suggest some sort of strong family relationship.

John probably was a son of Vincent, but also could have been the son of an unknown sibling of Vincent.

4. Some family timelines suggest that Vincent Goodwin/Godwyn (1385-1433) had Mary de Trie (1387-1433) as a first wife with whom he had a Josselyn Goodwin/Goodwyn (1405-1488). Neither is mentioned in Vincent's Will and I can find no documentation to suggest a Mary de Trie was his first wife, or that the mentioned child was his. There is documentation that Josselyn Goodwin was born in North Burlingham, Broadland District, North Norfolk, England (parental documentation unfound) which is only 3 miles from Blofield where Vincent lived. This does not prove a paternal link with Vincent, and no Will on either party suggests a parental relationship. This leaves only speculation that an unknown relative of Vincent might be Josselyn's father..

For purposes of my research and this paper: Vincent was born in 1385 in Blofield, Norfolk, England, married in 1415 to Asilia Cheshire De Houghton (1387-1433), had two children (William and John) with Asilia, and died in

Blofield intestate on 11/26/1433.[8] He was buried in St. Andrews Churchyard, Blofield, Norfolk, England.

[8] Death date from *UK, Extracted Probate Records, 1269-1975*; *Collection: Norfolk: Norwich- 1. Index to Wills, Consistory Court of Norwich, 1370-1550; 2. Wills among the Norwich Enrolled Deeds, 1286-1508; Volume: Wills Proved in Consistory Court of Norwich and now preserved in District Probate Registry at Norwich; Chapter: 1370-1550; Text: 1433 Goodwyn, Vincent, Blofeld 129 Surflete*.

Children -

Reminder: Firm birth dates in the 1300-1400s are almost impossible to find. Those that I have documentation for I have footnoted with the references. Those not footnoted are not documented birth dates but based on extrapolations from known dates such marriage dates or based on childrens' known or suspected births and death dates. Death dates oft times have better documentation via gravestones, and if so are footnoted.

Children Summary	Born-Died	Spouse	Born-Died
William Goodwin	Circa 1420-8/6/1478[9]	Katerine ?	?- 11/2/1488[10]
John Goodwin Ancestor	Circa 1415-11/13/1465[11]	Alice Gyles[12]	1416-1479

[9] Death date provided by his Will which is found in the *UK, Extracted Probate Records, 1269-1975, Collection: Norfolk: Norwich-1.Index to wills, Consistory Court of Norwich, 1370-1550 2. Wills among the Norwich Enrolled Deeds, 1286-1508; Volume: Wills Proved in the Consistory Court of Norwich and now Preserved in the District Probate Registry at Norwich; Chapter 1370-1550; Text 1478 Goodwyn, William, Blofeld, St. Andrew 197, Folio 198 Gelour*. Will: William Goodwyn of Blofield. Will, day of St Barnabus 1478; proved 6 August 1478. To be buried in cemetery of St. Andrew of Blofield. To high altar 3s4d. To light of St. Mary in Blofield church, proceeds of one acre and a half of land in Roxland. To each order of Friars and each sickhouse at gates in Norwich. To guild of St. Mary and St. John Baptist in Blofield, four bushels of barley. To lights of St Andrew and St John Baptist in same 2 lbs wax. To Katerine, wife, house etc in Blofield. To Margaret my daughter. Executors: John Gyles, and Thomas Goodwin, Trental of St. Gregory to be sung for him.

[10] There is documentation a burial of Katherine Goodwyn on this date, however, if this is the correct Katherine Goodwyn is unknown. See: *UK and Ireland, Find A Grave Index, 1300s-Current at: https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/119473692/katherine-goodwin*. This document states she was buried in Christ Church Greyfriars Churchyard, London, City of London, Greater London, England. Her husband's Will states they had had one daughter, Margaret; this *may* be the Margery Goodwin who died in Ellingham by Bungay, Norfolk, England leaving a will dated 12/13/1520 and proved on 1/19/1520/1 who had a daughter named Edony (see *Consistory of Norwich, Act Book I (1549-1559), folio 119* and *Register Robinson, folio 11*) however, no other documents could be found.

[11] Will: John Goodwin of Blofield. Will 22 September 1465; proved 13 November 1465. To be buried in the cemetery of St. Andrew of Blofield. To the high altar 12d. To light of St. Andrew. To repair of mother church of Norwich. To leper houses at Norwich. To wife Alice, Executrix, and my son William, Executor. Witness: William Deen, clericum. Consistory of Norwich, Register Cobald, folio 42.

[12] Children mentioned in her Will: William Goodwyn (1440-5/20/1531); Edmund Goodwyn (Abt 1453-1480); Thomas Goodwyn (1455-3/13/1502